

# **Increasing Momentum in the Formation of State and Regional Monitoring Councils**

**Linda Green, co-chair,  
Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup,  
National Water Quality Monitoring Council**

**Presentation to  
the Advisory Committee on Water Information,  
May 15, 2001**



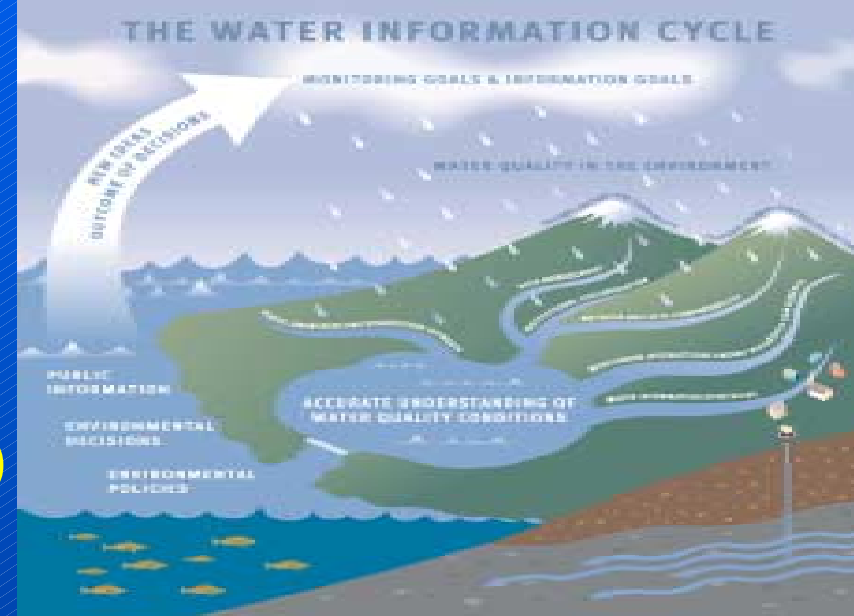
# Council Mission

“Provide a national forum to coordinate consistent and scientifically defensible federal and state water quality monitoring methods and strategies.”

Create a framework for **collaboration and comparability** among programs as a goal necessary to the development of a national monitoring strategy.



# Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup



“To support the creation and building of partnerships which foster collaboration among the many elements of the water monitoring community.”

# Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup

## Work Plan Tasks:

- 💧 **Support the development of state and regional councils**
- 💧 **Organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Water Quality Monitoring Conf.**

# Support the Development of State and Regional Councils

Council members Emery Cleaves and Robert Ward have made presentations about state/regional councils to groups that are forming .



# Support the Development of State and Regional Councils

- 💧 Who's out there and what are they doing?
  - 💧 Conduct Assessment of Councils
    - 💧 via EPA monitoring Coordinators
    - 💧 via ACWI participants
  - 💧 Summarize Results
  - 💧 Invite reps to come to NWQMC meetings
- 💧 Targeted Workshops at NWQMC conferences



## NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

### *Working Together for Clean Water*

**Purpose:** Provide national coordination to implement the Strategy to Improve Water-Quality Monitoring in the United States. Develop water-quality information standards through the Methods and Data Comparability Board.

#### Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council

Colorado Water Quality  
Monitoring Council



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments



*Upper Mississippi Basin  
Stakeholder Network*



IOWA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COUNCIL

"Together for the Earth we share"



# Assessment of State, Interstate, or Regional Watershed Monitoring Councils

- ☐ Council name, contact information:
- ☐ Sponsoring organization(s):
- ☐ General description of your membership :
- ☐ When was your Council created and why?:
- ☐ Charter, bylaws or other adopted written Council operating procedures?
- ☐ Meeting Schedule?
- ☐ Sub-committees?



# Assessment of State, Interstate, or Regional Watershed Monitoring Councils

- ☐ Funding?
- ☐ Staff Support?
- ☐ Products or Publications?
- ☐ Special Projects/Significant Accomplishments?
- ☐ Networking via Web, list serve, document sharing?
- ☐ Special forum/workshop at 2002 Conference?

# Common Council Themes

- 💧 **Communication**
- 💧 **Coordination**
- 💧 **Collaborative Watershed Based Monitoring**
- 💧 **Document Monitoring Activities**
- 💧 **Efficient Use of Monitoring Resources**
- 💧 **Raise Public Awareness**
- 💧 **Inclusiveness**

# State/Regional Councils: Common Activities

- 💧 Network design and coordination (6)
- 💧 Data Inventory and management (includes GIS) (6)
- 💧 Annual Conferences (5)
- 💧 Field and analytical methods and QAQC (5)
- 💧 Data Interpretation or Reporting (2)
- 💧 Issues Based Groups (3) –there are a number of other watershed groups that focus on specific issues as well.

# Common Concerns

- 💧 **Funding/Institutional Support**
- 💧 **Time - more meetings**
- 💧 **Efficiency**
- 💧 **Capacity Building**



# *Oklahoma's* **Water Quality Monitoring Council**

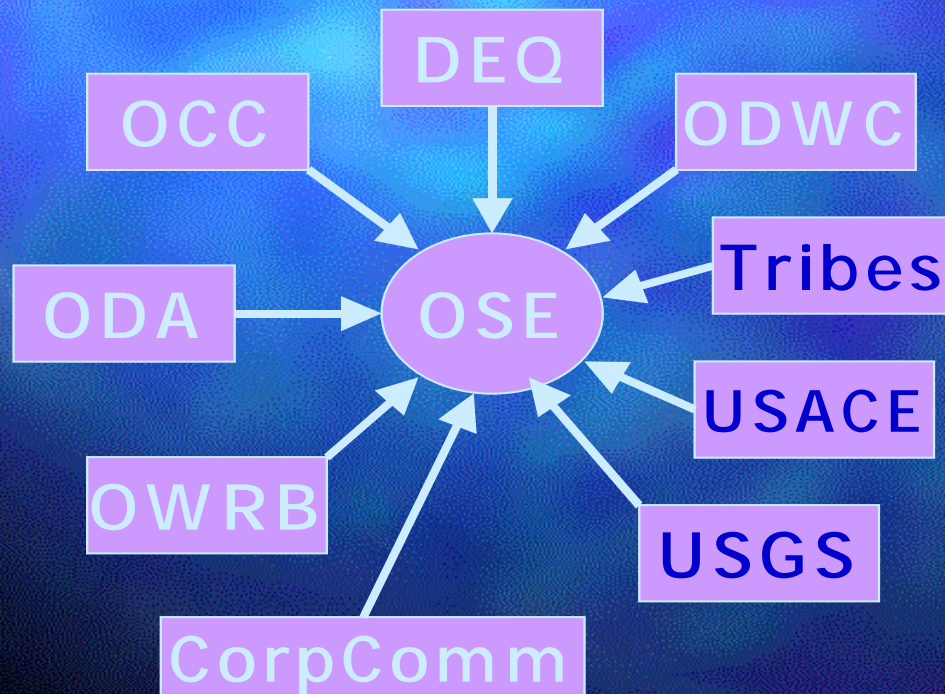
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J. D. Strong, Chairman  
*Office of the Secretary of Environment*



# Why a Council?

*... Too many chefs in the kitchen!!!*



- Numerous conflicts & inefficiencies resulting from disparate monitoring programs
- Secretary of Environment needed to step-up efforts to coordinate monitoring activities



# Organizational Structure

**OWQMC Advisory Committee**  
Secretary of Environment  
*plus 6 State Monitoring Agencies*

**Oklahoma Water Quality Monitoring Council**

**Monitoring Program Committee**

*Responsible for developing the overall monitoring framework & strategy for Oklahoma.*

**Education & Outreach Committee**

*Responsible for improving the public's access to, & knowledge of, WQ data/information.*

**QA/QC & Sampling Design Committee**

*Responsible for establishing common QA/QC procedures and designing efficient sampling programs.*

**GIS & Data Storage Committee**

*Responsible for establishing a clearinghouse for all WQ data & information, and making it more accessible.*



# Council Membership

- An advisory body to the Secretary of Environment, the 25-member Council is made up of diverse groups involved and/or interested in water monitoring in Oklahoma
  - 8 State environmental agencies
  - 5 Federal environmental agencies
  - 3 local government representatives
  - 2 Tribal environmental representatives
  - 2 environmental organization representatives
  - 2 academicians from State universities
  - 3 at-large members



# Goals of the Council

- Develop and implement collaborative, watershed-based monitoring strategies
- Provide a forum for effective communication, cooperation, and collaboration among individuals and organizations involved in monitoring
- Document monitoring activities in Oklahoma using state of the art tools such as GIS-based mapping techniques
- Promote the use of quality assured procedures for sample collection, analytical methods, assessment, and data management



# Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council (LMMCC)

## 💧 Why?

- 💧 To foster cooperation and coordination among groups involved in all types of environmental monitoring activities.
- 💧 To develop a systematic and comparable approach to all aspects of data collection, management, and dissemination...related to issues, policies, res. management in Lake Michigan Drainage basin.

# LMMCC MEMBERSHIP

- 🔥 2 each from states of MI, IN, IL, WI
- 🔥 7 from Federal Agencies
- 🔥 2 Tribal Authorities
- 🔥 2 Business, industry, consultants
- 🔥 1 Agriculture
- 🔥 Local, volunteer monitoring groups
- 🔥 Sea Grant/University-based Institutes
- 🔥 Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan Forum
- 🔥 Local Government/planning agencies
- 🔥 Great Lakes Fisheries Commission



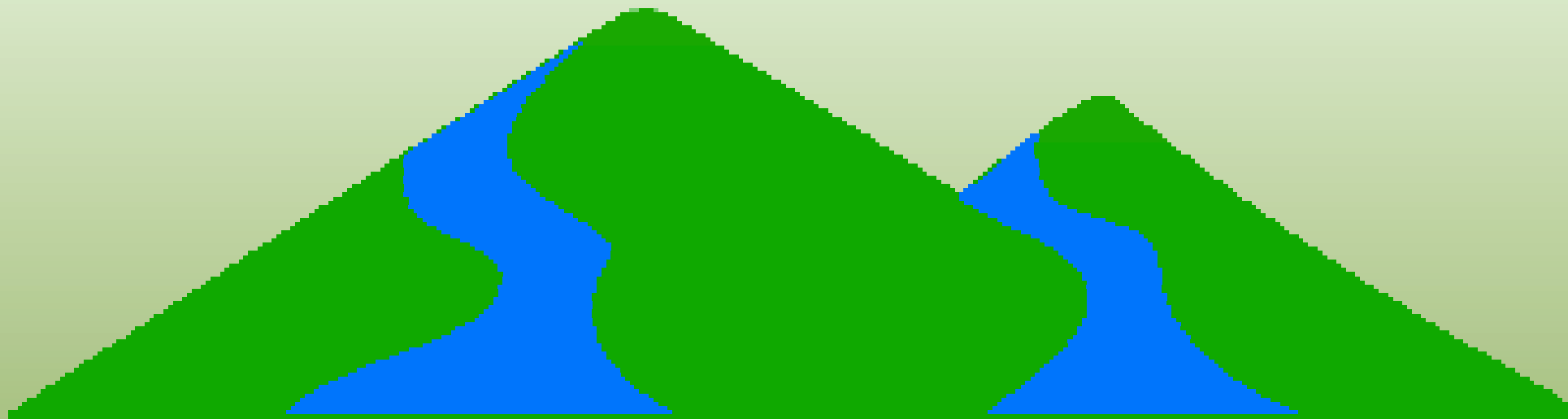
# LMMCC GOALS

- 💧 Document monitoring activities, ID data gaps
- 💧 Contribute to developing monitoring framework
- 💧 Establish and maintain collaborative partnerships linking organizations and initiatives
- 💧 Encourage comparable, documentable monitoring
- 💧 Support linked info networks
- 💧 Provide guidance/assistance to improve awareness of monitoring



# LMMCC Structure

- 💧 Secretariat support provided by Great Lakes Commission, funds administration
- 💧 Funded by US EPA Lake Michigan team
- 💧 Chaired by 2 members, for 2 years
- 💧 Topical Issue workgroups formed as needed
- 💧 Meet twice per year, conf calls...



# NERMC

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL MONITORING COLLABORATIVE

Funding provided through the US Geological Survey through  
the Water Resources Research Center,  
UMASS Amherst and US EPA Region 1

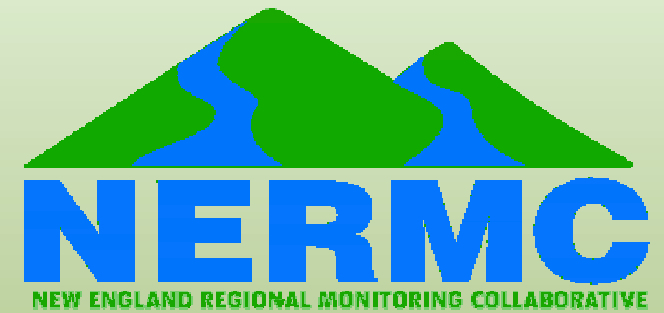
# Why NERMC? Worn out and stretched too thin!



- Coordinate delivery of training and related services to volunteer watershed monitoring groups in New England
- Increase the level of expertise of volunteers and program coordinators
- Enhance sharing of data within watersheds and the region



# Collaborators



- ◆ River Network
- ◆ Univ. of Mass. Water Watch Partnership
- ◆ Univ. of Maine Department of Public Affairs
- ◆ Univ. of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and Freshwater Biology Group
- ◆ Univ. of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension
- ◆ Conn. Dept of Environ. Protection
- ◆ EPA- New England Region
- ◆ CSREES Regional Volunteer Monitoring Theme Team



# Activities



- ◆ Production of a set of manuals, videos and training aides on 5 watershed assessment tools
- ◆ Creation of a regional training network by conducting a series of “train-the-trainers” workshop
- ◆ Institute an evaluation and planning process for volunteer monitoring programs
- ◆ Watershed Assessment Strategy Document





# NERMC Watershed Assessment Tools

- Watershed Natural Resources Inventory
- Rapid and Intensive Habitat Assessments
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate Streamside Assessment
- Intensive Benthic Macroinvertebrate Assessment
- “Following the Flow”: On-site Non-point Source Pollution Evaluation



# Opportunities: NWQMC and State/Regional Council Connections

- 💧 Working together (virtual Council) toward common goals – Networks, Methods, Data, Interpretation, Reporting and Outreach
- 💧 Active involvement at Council meetings and as members of Council Work Groups
- 💧 Important not to duplicate efforts with NWQMC activities and to share results between Councils

# Role for ACWI

- 💧 **Distribute Assessments**
- 💧 **Endorse Concept of State/Regional Councils**